



Business Watch

SANDY CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Stephen Chapman

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Mission Statement:

Our goal is to encourage the Sandy City business community to take proactive measures to minimize the threat of crime through training and building relationships with fellow businesses.

To keep our businesses informed we provide training opportunities. The next Business Watch meeting is:

February 12, 2009
8:30—9:30 a.m.
Police Department Training Room
Sandy City Police Department
10000 Centennial Parkway
Sandy, Utah
Please RSVP
Dawn Black



Dawn Black
Crime Prevention
Specialist

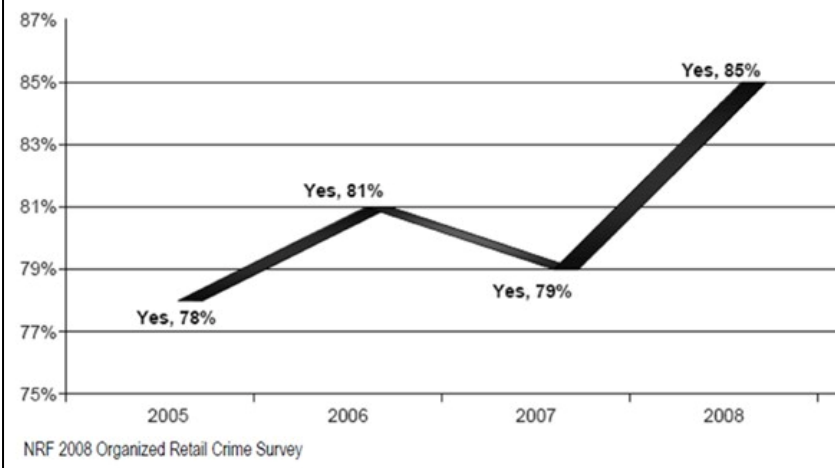
568-7200

dblack@sandy.utah.gov



Organized Retail Crime in US Rises 6% , Fueled in Part by Internet

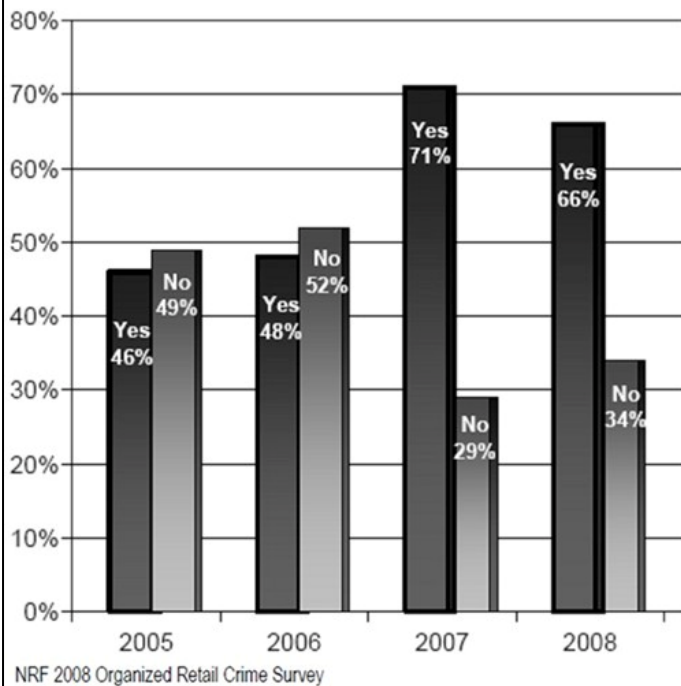
Figure 1: Has your company been a victim of organized retail crime in the past 12 months?



The vast majority of retailers (85%) say their companies have been victims of organized retail crime activity in the past 12 months, up 6% from last year, according to the National Retail Federation's 2008 Organized Retail Crime Survey.

However, the number of companies (66%) reporting increases in activity declined five percentage points from last year.

Figure 2: Have you seen an increase in organized retail crime activity in the past 12 months?



The 114 senior loss-prevention executives participating in the annual survey estimate that nearly half of external theft at their organizations is caused by professional or organized crime groups. They report that to fight this problem they spend on average \$230,000 per year on labor costs.

Loss-prevention professionals also say they are becoming more aggressive about targeting the location of stolen merchandise. More than two-thirds (68%) have identified or recovered stolen merchandise or gift cards from a fence location, up from 61% last year.

Much of the stolen merchandise ends up online, being sold through third party auction sites, where crime rings can maintain anonymity, NRF reports.

Some 68% of retailers had identified stolen goods that were being e-fenced, and nearly two-thirds (63%) experienced an increase in e-fencing activity in the past 12 months, the report found:

Figure 4: Have you identified or recovered stolen merchandise and/or gift cards from a fence location?

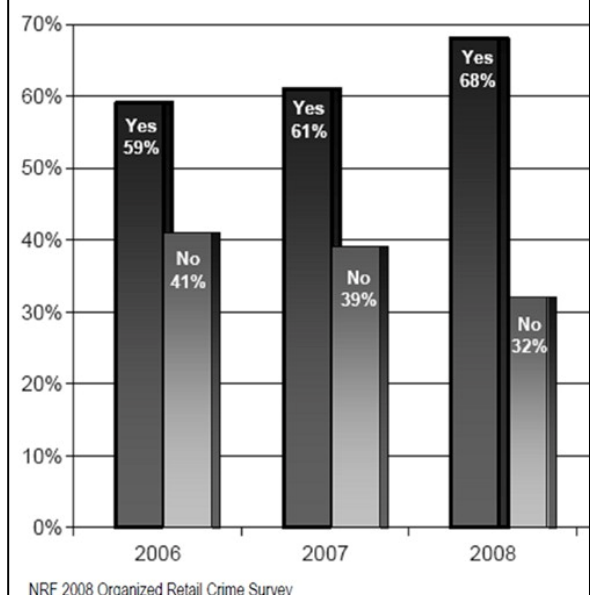
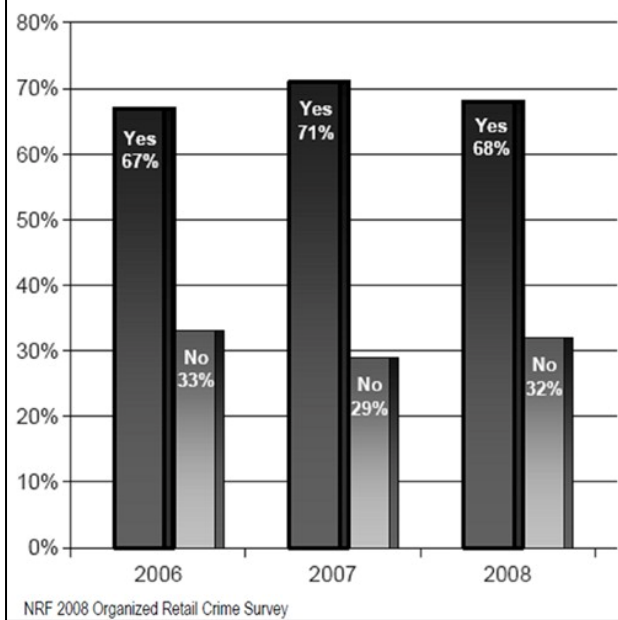


Figure 5: Have you identified or recovered stolen merchandise and/or gift cards that were being e-fenced?



Organized retail crime refers to groups, gangs and individuals engaged in illegally obtaining substantial quantities of retail merchandise through both theft and fraud as part of a commercial enterprise. These crime rings generally consist of “boosters,” who methodically steal merchandise from retail stores, and fence operators, who convert the product to cash or drugs. According to the NRF, these types of crimes account for as much as \$30 billion in retail losses every year. The most popular items targeted by these groups include designer clothing, Benadryl, Crest Whitestrips, Prilosec, gift cards, electronics and Similac infant formula.



About the survey: The NRF’s fourth annual survey was conducted to help retailers understand the impact of organized retail crime on retailers across the US. Results include responses from 114 senior loss-prevention executives representing all retail segments, including drugstore, supermarket, mass merchant, home improvement, apparel, department and specialty stores

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File a Police Report

Currently, you may only file a police report online if you are reporting a lost item or if you are reporting a stolen item or bicycle but you have no possible suspect information.

<http://sandy.utah.gov/government/police-department/online-services/file-a-police-report.html>

To file a police report online, fill out the form provided as completely and as accurately as possible. When you are finished, read the Truth and Accuracy Statement and type your acceptance of the statement if you wish to file the report. Press the "File this Police Report" button to file the report.

Once you have filed your police report online, it will be forwarded to a police officer for review. If any additional information is needed, you will be contacted by the reviewing officer. If the report is complete, you will be contacted with the case number that has been assigned to your case.

You will typically receive a response from the department within three business days regarding this case. Understand that our response time may vary according to the workload that officers are encountering at the time.

This online reporting system is provided as an easy and convenient means to report incidents that are minor in nature and that are related to the loss or theft of personal property only. If you need to report any other type of crime, you will need to speak to a police officer. You can do this in person or by telephone (801) 568-7200 or by calling police dispatch at (801) 840-4000.



How Safe Is Your Business

As a business owner you want to have an environment that is both pleasing and safe for your customers and employees. The question is, how safe is your business? How are items arranged both inside and outside of your business? Can your employees see out and can others see into your business? Does your business have a working security system? Are you a member of the Sandy City Business Watch? These are a few of the concerns to be considered to keep your business' as safe as possible. Of course there are no guarantees that you won't be the victim of a crime, but implementing safeguards to protect your business will help maintain an inviting atmosphere.

Here are a few suggestions:

1. Carry out a site inspection inside and outside of your business.
2. Exterior doors should be heavy and solid with good hardware. Deadbolt locks are best. Insure the hardware of the doors and windows are tamper-proof.
3. If possible have windows made with break-resistant glass. Screens should be made with tough and durable material.
4. Does your security system meet the needs of your business? If your business does not have a security system, you may want to consider having a system installed.
5. Carefully screen your employees. Conduct a background check and check references.
6. Do you have procedures in place for opening and closing your business, handling money, credit/debit transactions and checks.
7. If your business has a safe, is it secured safely and not accessible by customers or unauthorized employees?
8. During business hours, are there doors or windows left unsecured in areas not monitored by employees?
9. Lock up expensive equipment. These are commonly targeted during burglaries.
10. Minimize entrances and exits, position workstations within view of the entrance.

If you would like more information about alarms or surveillance systems, contact Duff Astin, Sandy City alarm expert.

568-7179



Offenses in Commercial Areas Within Sandy													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Aggravated Assault	2	0	2	0	0	4	2	0	2	2	1	1	16
Alcohol Offenses	13	14	24	13	10	18	18	0	9	22	19	12	172
Animal Problems	1	2	1	3	1	9	5	0	3	0	0	0	25
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Burglary	13	7	19	13	20	9	11	0	11	17	14	15	149
Disorderly	5	13	6	4	8	13	9	0	5	8	11	9	91
Domestics	1	5	6	5	2	8	6	0	8	10	7	10	68
Drug Offenses	42	38	43	59	48	42	28	3	22	44	49	27	443
Forgeries & Frauds	35	21	25	15	21	15	14	0	22	20	25	27	240
Juvenile Problems	17	9	8	11	18	19	4	0	10	7	7	13	123
Property Offenses	39	28	37	34	26	29	37	2	37	25	34	33	381
Robbery	1	2	1	3	3	2	2	0	0	2	2	2	20
Sex offenses	5	4	2	3	10	8	1	0	5	4	4	5	51
Simple Assault	8	8	12	10	9	11	8	0	11	17	14	14	122
Suspicious Calls	5	8	10	9	13	10	10	1	16	7	19	11	119
Theft	91	106	106	120	108	98	109	8	105	107	122	115	1,195
Threats	4	6	5	3	11	2	2	0	7	7	4	5	56
Traffic Crashes	110	90	72	63	71	71	62	6	53	75	78	108	859
Trespassing	4	1	4	5	7	7	7	0	3	3	6	5	52
Vehicle Burglary	30	40	27	34	29	23	21	3	30	48	53	30	368
Vehicle Theft	9	10	14	10	5	7	3	1	13	11	8	3	94
Weapons Offense	2	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	10